August 2008

PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 512

PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING

The purpose of pasture and hay planting is to establish native or introduced forage species.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice may be applied on cropland, hayland, pastureland, or other agriculture lands where forage production is planned.

This practice is used for one or more of the following purposes:

- Provide forage for livestock and/or wildlife
- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health
- Provide additional forage to fill gaps in a yearlong forage management program
- Provide emergency forage
- Reduce soil erosion, improve aesthetics, provide wildlife food and cover, improve water quality, and other environmental benefits

Plant species recommendations for this practice are based on the following considerations:

- Climatic conditions such as annual rainfall, growing season days, humidity, and temperature extremes
- Site conditions including soil series, soil condition, flooding hazards, drainage, salinity, inherent fertility, slope, toxic elements, and other attributes associated with the specific site
- Plant resistance to pests common to the site
- Period of growth (cool vs. warm season)

The attached diagram identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Pasture and Hay Planting is commonly used as part of a Conservation Management System with practices such as Prescribed Burning (338), Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management practices, Nutrient Management (590), Pest Management (595), Salinity and Spodic Soil Management (610), and livestock watering systems.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and job sheets for further information, including recommended species, seeding dates, seeding rates, seedbed preparation requirements, planting methods, and other technical requirements.

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Pasture and Hay Planting

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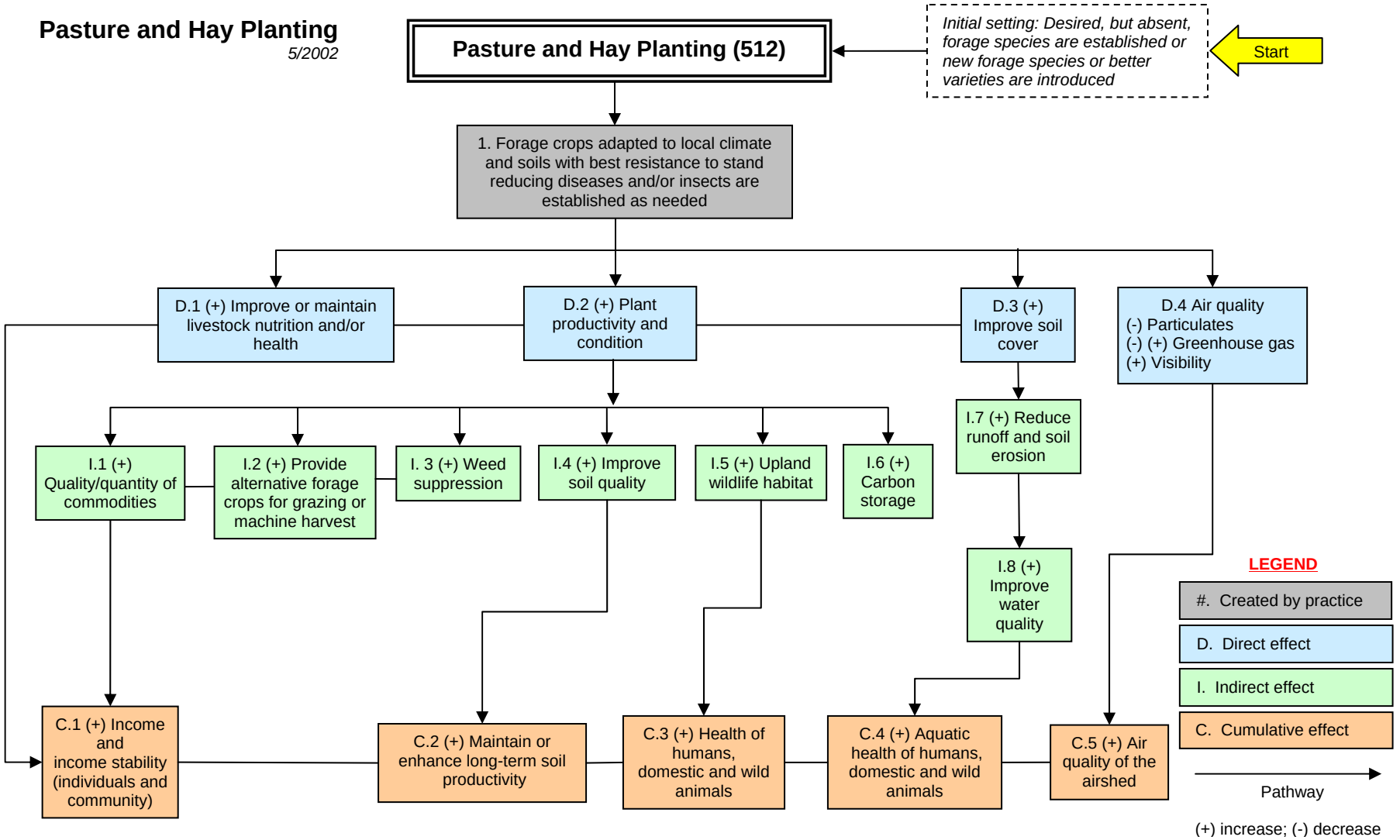

Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.